Inetrmediates) Scheme has been notified on 1-3-1995. Under this Scheme, the engineering goods exporter can domestically source their requirements of iron and ste elintermediates at prices competiable to internaional prices from steel producers, who are entitled to duty free import of their inputs under the Scheme.

(c) Government has, from time to time, reviewed the working of IPRS and rectified the flaws noticed as a result of such reviews. The Scheme has been withdrawn with effect from 1-4-94.

(d) The main objective of IPRS was to reimburse the price differential between the domestic prices and internaional prices of iron and steel raw materials required for export production by the engineering exporters/manufacturers.

Disposal of rice mills in Tamil Nadu by FCI

5120. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India has decided to dispose of the modern rice mills and a solvent extraction plant in Tamil Nadu to private parties;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the former Chairman of FCI had directed the Zonal Managers to make a study to revive these units and the committee recommended to reactivate these units; and

(d) if so, what are the action taken on those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India has decided to dispose of all the remaining 12 Modern Rice Mills including the 4 in Tamil Nadu and a Solvent Extraction Plant at Sembanarkoil in Tamil Nadu. In the first instance, the Corporation has offered the plants and mchinery of these units to the respective State Governments and their agencies. Their response is still awaited. Any other mode of disposal will be considered only after the response of the State Governments and their agencies is known.

(c) and (d) The former Chairman of FCI had suggested revival of 8 Modern Rice Mills in the South Zone. Two Committees constituted to workout the modalities of reviving these units had estimated that fresh investments of Rs. 13.60 lakhs would be required for the purpose. The findings of a subsequent techno-economic study undertaken by the Corporation to ascertain the viability of running these units on commercial lines, were not encouraging. Taking all relevant factors into account the Board of Directors of FCI ultimately decided to dispose of these loss making units.

Reducing prices of wheat and rice sold by FCI

5121. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reduce the prices of wheat and rice sold by FCI in open market;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how much quantity of foodgrains has since been sold and at what rate?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The prices of wheat and rice for sale in open market are fixed by a High Level Committee of Food Corporation of India constituted for the purpose, state-wise and on month to month